

Newspaper Standards

If a man who writes as much as Elbert Hubbard, most of it condensed wisdom elegantly clothed, did not occasionally write a foolish thing, he would be more than a man.

When the sage and wit of East Aurora wrote one of his artistic sketches on cigarette smokers, in which he classed all cigarette smokers as weaklings or worse, we ran over the list of cigarette smokers we know, and concluded that Mr. Hubbard had been guilty of a bad break.

Just now we have in mind Wm. Travers Jerome, who is an incessant cigarette smoker, and who thinks as clearly, talks as forcibly, and acts as vigorously as any man alive to-day.

Jerome's record along these lines is too well known, and of too recent making to require other than the mention of his name as author of a statement to

ers? The average newspaper is run from the counting room standpoint. Many of the advertisements are but a corruption fund to induce quiet about this, that or the other. I am not here to justify Town Topics."

With a due sense of our unworthiness to be in such mentally distinguished company, but because we have thought the same way and SAID THE SAME THINGS, we take the liberty of indorsing the utterances of Mr. Jerome, and of giving them a wider range of application.

Not only in New York, but in EVERY OTHER STATE, are there newspapers which belong in the class so unworthily distinguished by Colonel Mann, the Morgan of the art of making blackmail pay.

These papers run their news columns SOLELY FROM THE COUNTING ROOM.

Things are put in, and things are left out of the news columns, according to the effect their insertion or omission will have on the business office.

WE, and Horace Greeley, and Henry Watterson, and Charles Dana, have thought that newspapers should have a better standard than this, and have tried to keep our news and editorial columns out of hearing distance of the coin's metallic click.

WE may be wrong, but we are rather proud of the company we find ourselves in, and we now have the comfort of knowing that we will not be lonesome—

FOR THE TENDENCY OF SOME DOZENS OF GREAT NEWSPAPERS IS NOW IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

Listen to the Washington Post:

"There is no reason why the influence of an honest newspaper should cost anybody a penny. The man who controls the policy of a newspaper is supposed to hear and consider all sides of every important question and proposition, and to make his newspaper express his conclusions as to what is right for the guidance and information of the public. The newspaper which accepts money in any form to determine or to sway its position on any public question is dishonest, rascally and traitorous to trust."

With such indorsement as we now have from all directions, we are stronger in our belief that newspapers must be free from the influence of the counting room, or take down the banner of journalism and hang out the merchandising sign.

When we can no longer live under the standard we have raised, we will invite our friends to a song recital at which we will be the only performer, rendering in our best style the "Song of the Swan."

Oh, Joy! Here's Graves Again

We feel that we would be guilty of base ingratitude to the Mirth Goddess if we did not pour out to her our thanks for giving us Graves—John Temple Graves—who spent many pleasant winters and summers in our midst, but who now brings joy and gladness to our neighbors in Georgia's capital.

Yes, we are glad we have Graves. He has cheered us greatly in his recent stunts, as brought out by his partner, Mr. Daniel.

Like a martin to his gourd, has Mr. Daniel gone to the spot in the armor of John Temple where the plates are the thinnest.

With unerring finger has the manager of the Atlanta News touched the raw on the anatomy of its distinguished editor.

Down here in Jacksonville we all know how his vanity increased in geometrical proportion when stacked up against his size.

We know how he used to walk down the street in pumps and pomposity.

Most of us can recall his controversy with Charles H. Jones, who had about the same number of cubits in his stature as his journalistic opponent, and can still call up a smile when Graves put on a high silk, and referred to Jones as "that little literary fellow."

But Daniel of Atlanta has come to judgment, and serves up Graves with the sauce that adds just the right touch to the piquant flavor of the precious tid-bit.

The Daniel relish takes the form of an injunction to restrain Graves from throwing bouquets at himself in his editorial columns.

Try a little dash of it.

Says Daniel: "Mr. Graves can be fed on flattery. It is essential to his existence. By flattery he can be soft-soaped into doing any act, however ridiculous it may be."

Ain't it great?

Take another spoonful.

"He (Graves) follows one who flatters, just as a little child follows a stick of candy."

Getting better all the time.

Some more? Why, certainly. Pleasure's ours.

"So great is the necessity of Graves for adulation that any dreary drivel can find its way into the editorial page if it only be addressed 'Hon. John Temple Graves,' and begins, 'I saw your brilliant editorial,' or 'I have heard your eloquent address delivered at Coonville.'"

Well, after this, if we could only meet this Daniel we know what we would do. We would ask him to name his'n, even if we did break a life-long habit.

At a recent meeting of the National Child Labor Committee, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was the chief speaker. He declared that organized labor had succeeded in having laws passed in four States against child labor. Mr. Gompers also called attention to the fact that in the South the exclusion of the negroes from the factories had resulted in sending the negro children to school and the white children to work.

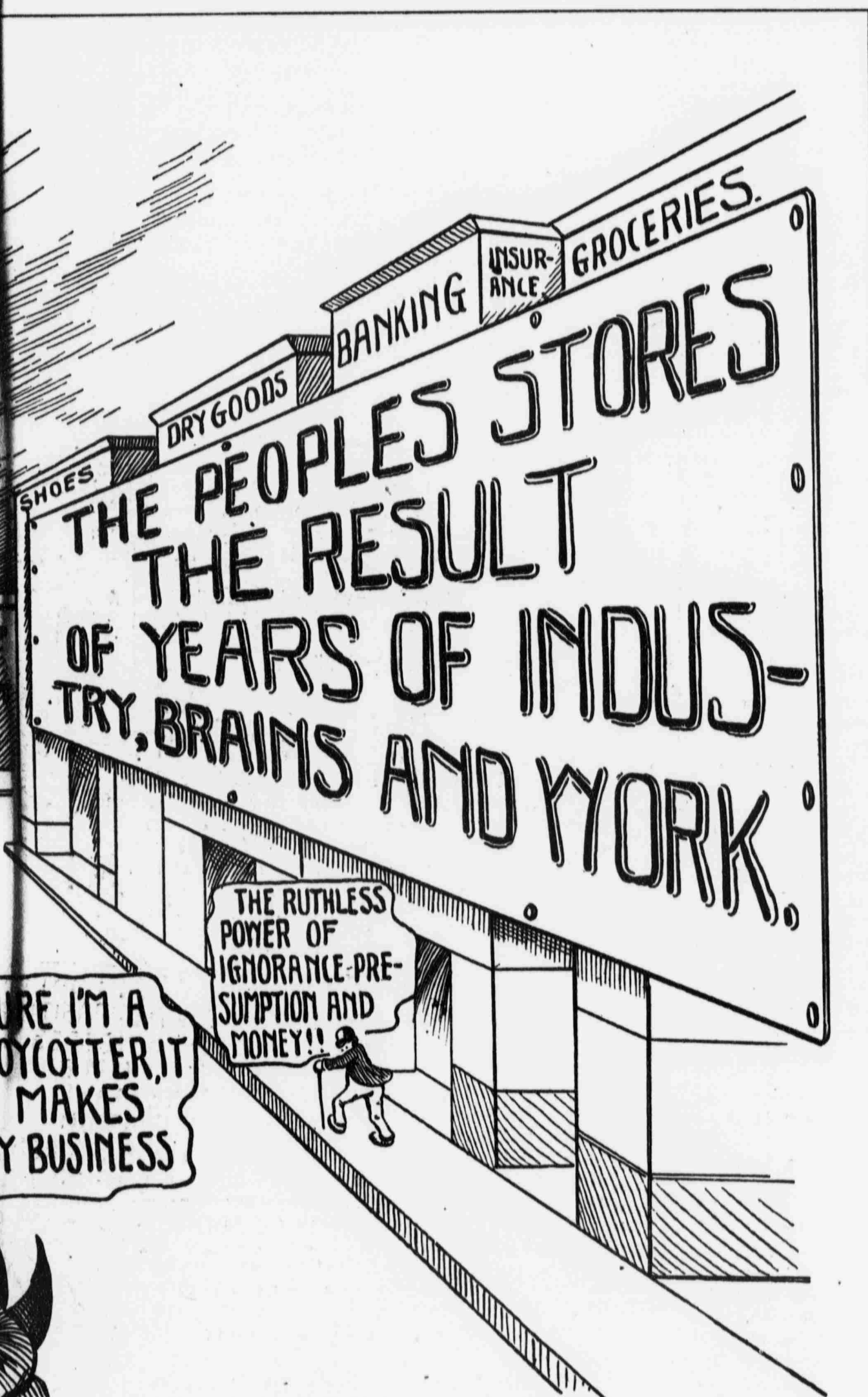
We know that Mr. Gompers is right. We heard the question discussed at length in the South Carolina Legislature in 1903, when bills against child labor were pending. All of the speakers on the bills made the statement that negro children were being educated, while white children were doing factory work. Child labor should be abolished for many reasons, but if there was no other but this, it should not be tolerated.

That the proper way to treat the eyes is through the stomach, has been demonstrated in this city. One of our most prominent and distinguished citizens, whose eyes were fast failing, consulted a neurologist, who put him on a diet of one pecan nut for breakfast, no luncheon, and a dried fig for dinner. At the end of the third week he could see a loaf of bread nine miles.

Thos. Cook & Sons of New York, proprietors of Cooks' European Tours, report unprecedented inquiries from Jacksonville this winter. Fashions change and men change with them. Besides, one gets tired of autos and diamonds after awhile.

The best piece of news that has come out of the East since Dewey cut the cable, is a late dispatch to an English paper that the Japs want the Philippines. Don't see why they want 'em, but if they will take 'em—let 'em.

Now that it has been demonstrated at Ormond that one make of automobile can go faster than others, let's get some good roads built before the enthusiasm.



ast. New blood, new vim and new developers are now in charge.—Metropolis, January 29

editorial, showing how the Gumocracy has cinched all lines of our mind, because Mr. Taylor has so graphically presented the situation. We, therefore, present Mr. Taylor's cartoon as an editorial of the Gummers to take a look, and then go off in a quiet

entitle that statement to the serious consideration of all men who read, who remember what they read, and who think about passing events.

We, therefore, take pleasure in introducing Mr. Jerome's remarks about newspapers, in support of some observations we have made on the same subject.

At the conclusion of the trial in which Hapgood, editor of Collier's Weekly, was acquitted of the charge of criminal libel, brought against him by Justice Deuel of Town Topics, Mr. Jerome said to the defendant:

"My dear old man, I'm very much pleased that it turned out as it did."

In his address to the jury Mr. Jerome referred to Town Topics thus:

"Mr. Shepard has told you that Colonel Mann has stated that it was the natural evolution of personal journalism. If this is true it ought to be applicable to more than one daily paper in New York whose trend is that way. There is scarcely a morning paper that does not print the scandals and obscene matter."

"Does it serve any useful purpose? Is it other than filth? Is it put there for no other purpose than that of paying dividends to the stockhold-